



MISDIRECTED GENEROSITY

BY JOHN H. RAFFERTY

It was pretty late to attempt to get them back, but they would try. A clerk made some notes, rattled off words about the terrible rush, and off and left the colonel standing in the crowd.

"I hope you won't think of me as being too curious to the children, but they're worth their weight in gold."

Col. Battersly, not having seen his sister in ten years, decided to spend Christmas at her house. A desultory correspondence had made him vaguely aware of the fact that her husband, Calvin Murdock, had grown rich, and that she had two children, a boy and a girl.

But the Murdocks gave Uncle Battersly a grand welcome. His sister kissed him, the two children gave him their hands with trained graciousness, and the head of the house said: "Welcome to the warrior—see, the conquering hero comes!"

When the Christmas presents began to arrive, and his sister showed them to him, the colonel suddenly realized that he must buy something for the children. He said nothing about it, but spent half of the next day buying for his niece a French doll, with a complete wardrobe, and a fully equipped steam battleship for his nephew.

He wondered why his gifts did not soon appear in the grand array, but said

—well, the loot—that is, I took 'em up in China and they—the children will appreciate them more as they grow older.

Murdock walked away without another word, but that night the woman told her brother, softly and with evident desire to be grateful, that "papa was so scrupulous, he didn't want the children to receive such presents."

So the brother, flushed, took back his barbaric gifts and went to bed. In the morning, soon after breakfast, he went out of the house, cled a cab, and bade the driver take him to 2441 Penrose street. The doll and the battleship had not arrived, and he was going after them. He got out of the cab in a squalid street, and went into the only house in the block. It was a dirty, tumble-down cottage, built below grade and with a sign "For Sale" nailed to the rickety fence. A thin woman, an old, faded wrapper, came to the door.

"I came to see if—"

"Oh, I knew somebody'd come," she interrupted him. "I knew they wasn't for us, sir—won't you come in?"

He stepped into the dingy room and saw a big-eyed, frail girl of seven fondling the great French doll.

"You see, sir," said the woman, breathless to explain "the things come while I was out—I took over at the shoe factory, and—my name is Murphy, sir—and when the things come nobody was home, sir, but Mamie and the boy. He's mine, and he's out there now playing with the steamboat, and when the wagon came, Mrs. Tracy, she lives in the next block, she seen it, and she ran over and signed a book, and the driver jumped on his wagon and went away, an', of course, the children seen the bundles an' nothin' would do but they must open 'em. That's all, sir; we didn't want to—I hope you don't think we'd steal 'em."

She was out of breath now, and the two children—the boy, a sturdy lad of ten, had come in—were staring, frightened, at the colonel. He looked at them a moment and then at the mother.

"I don't understand you, madam," he said. "I called to look at the house. It's for sale, you know."

He saw the look of anxiety pass from her homely face. The children, delighted with the reprieve, ran back to their splendid toys. He made a show of looking through the stuffy rooms, and when he was going gave each of the little ones a coin.

"Good-by, madam," he said to the mother. "You have two fine children."

And when he was in the cab again he stroked his gray mustache and chuckled.

"It was a lucky blunder, after all. I'll go down to the store in the morning and tell 'em it's all right."—Chicago Record-Herald.

GEOGRAPHICAL TAFFY. Rare Distinction of the Town Was Not in Line with the Expectations of the People.

"What town is this?" asked the eminent statesman, who, relates the Chicago Tribune, was making a political tour of the provinces.

"Ionia," they told him.

The eminent statesman stepped out to the rear platform of the gorgeous private car in which he was traveling.

"My countrymen," he said, impressively, to the cheering throng at the station, "your beautiful and thriving young city has a rare distinction. Independently of its commerce and manufactures, independently of its charming location, independently, I may add, of the stalwart men and fair women who inhabit it, so many of whom I see before me—not forgetting these bright and winsome young children who are also here, the hope and mainstay of the republic—independently, I say, of all these, your lovely city—"

Here he became truly eloquent. His eyes flashed, his voice rang out in clarion tones, and he shook his clenched fist at the zenith.

"—has the rare distinction of bearing a name that has only five letters, and yet has four syllables!"

The applause, as the train moved away, was simply deafening.

AN EXPERT.

He Wanted a Confidential Clerkship Because He Could Be Very Confidential.

Secretary Shaw says that shortly after he assumed his duties as head of the treasury department he was called upon by an old gentleman from his own state of Iowa, who wanted an appointment as confidential clerk to one of the assistant secretaries of that department.

"In spite of the fact that I was very busy at the time," says Mr. Shaw, "I gave the Iowa the better part of an hour, for he was as pleasant and entertaining an old chap as one could meet—bright, chipper and witty."

On account of his age, the secretary felt that he could not comply with the request. So, gently but firmly, he informed him that he did not see his way clear to give him the appointment. This did not dampen the old gentleman's spirit in the least.

"Now, sir," said he, "I feel myself peculiarly well qualified to fill one of these confidential clerkships. I hope that you will consider my application further."

Then, wagging his head most impressively, he added earnestly:

"Oh, sir, I could be so confidential!"

Somewhat Twisted.

The average American in the Philippines makes sorry work of the Spanish language; but the Spaniards also have difficulty in mastering English. A Detroit woman opened a Manila paper the other day, and saw the following advertisement of a prominent Spanish dry goods house that caters to American trade:

"Importing house receiving by all mails from Europe. The highest novelties in weavings of silks and linens. Hats, and all sorts of Adorning for ladies and children. A complete assortment of all kinds of goods for gentlemen."—Detroit Free Press.

Can't Beat Them.

One of Representative Bartholdt's constituents came to Washington and stopped at a local hotel.

"Don't Blow Out the Gas" was the first sign he read on entering his room, and he didn't. It burned all night. When he paid his bill the next morning he found this item:

"Extra charge for burning gas all night, 40 cents."

"By George, you can't get ahead of these hotel keepers," he said.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Hicks—"I suppose you heard that our house was robbed?" Wick—"Yes. I understand the way the thieves ransacked the place simply beggars description." Hicks—"Not only that, but it very nearly beggared me."—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Western Woolgrower.

Newcastle, Wyo., Dec. 21.—There is a man in this place who claims that no one need suffer with backache, as he has proven in his own case that it can be completely and permanently cured.

His name is S. C. Holst, and he is a stock raiser a woolgrower.

"I was shearing sheep at the time the first pain came on," says Mr. Holst. "I was so bad for two weeks afterwards that I could hardly sit down, and when once down, it was almost impossible for me to get up again."

"I tried all the medicine I could hear of and several doctors without help, not even for a moment. I used Dodd's Kidney Pills and they made a new man out of me. I felt as if there was new blood in my veins. I am as stout in the back as a mule and can lift and work as hard as I please without an ache or pain in any part of my body."

"It is now over a year since they cured me and I can say there is not a healthier man in Wyoming than I am, and before using Dodd's Kidney Pills there was not a more complete physical wreck in the whole country than I was."

"Here, take this rifle," cried the excited showman. "The leopard has escaped. When you find him, shoot him on the spot!" "Which spot, sir?" gasped the green circus hand.—Scribe.

THE MARKETS.

Table with market prices for various goods like CATTLE, HOGS, SHEEP, FLOUR, etc., with columns for item, price, and date.

PE-RU-NA PROTECTS THE LITTLE ONES

Against Winter Catarrh In Its Many Phases.

Neglected Colds in Children Often Bring Disastrous Results.

Peruna should be kept in the house all the time. Peruna should be kept in every house where there are children. Don't wait until the child is sick then send to a drug store. Have Peruna on hand—accept no substitute.

Pe-ru-na Protects the Entire Household Against Catarrhal Diseases.

As soon as the value of Peruna is fully appreciated by every household, both as a preventive and cure of catarrhal affections, tens of thousands of lives will be saved, and hundreds of thousands of chronic, lingering cases of disease prevented. Peruna is a household safeguard.



ALICE SCHAFER.



ANNA R. BROWN

Mrs. J. M. Brown, Dunegan Springs, Mo., writes:

"My little daughter three years old was troubled with a very bad cough which remained after an attack of catarrhal fever. She has taken one bottle of Peruna through which she has obtained a complete cure. She is now as well and happy as a little girl can be. When our friends say how well she looks I tell them Peruna did it."

In a later letter she says: "Our little daughter continues to have good health."

Mrs. Schaffer, 436 Bope Ave., St. Louis, Mo., writes:

"In the early part of last year I wrote to you for advice for my daughter Alice, four years of age. She has been a puny, sickly, ailing child since her birth. She had convulsions and catarrhal fevers. I was always doctoring until we commenced to use Peruna. She grew strong and well. Peruna is a wonderful tonic; the best medicine I have ever used."

"I was in a very wretched condition when I commenced to take Peruna. I had catarrh all through my whole body, but thank God, your medicine set me all right. I would not have any other medicine."

"Peruna cured my baby boy of a very bad spell of cold and fever. He is a big healthy boy fifteen months old. I have given him Peruna off and on since he was born. I think that is why he is so well. I cannot praise Peruna enough. We have not had a doctor since we began to use Peruna—all praise to it."—Mrs. Schaffer.

Pe-ru-na Kept in the House for Five Years.

Mr. Albert Lietzman, 1596 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill., writes:

"I am only too glad to inform you that I am feeling splendid and have never felt better in my life. Through the advice of a friend I tried Peruna, and am glad to say it cured me to perfection. I began to tell a friend about Peruna the other day, and I had no sooner commenced than he told me his folks have kept Peruna in the house for the last five years. I am sure I wouldn't be without it. Mother also uses it to keep herself in good health."

Be Sure to Have Pe-ru-na on Hand During the Inclement Months of Fall and Winter.

Croup, capillary bronchitis and articular rheumatism are the special banes of childhood. These all alike result from catching cold.

One child catches cold and scares its mother into hysterics by having croup in the dead of night.

Another child catches cold, develops a stubborn cough that will not yield to ordinary remedies. The parents are filled with forebodings.

Still another child catches cold and develops that most fatal malady of childhood, capillary bronchitis. The doctor is called, pronounces the case pneumonia and, if the child is lucky enough to live, it has developed weak lungs from which it may never recover.

And yet another child catches cold

and articular rheumatism is the result. Ankles, knees, wrists and elbows become suddenly swollen and painful. A long disastrous illness follows. The child may live and become convalescent, a miserable invalid of valvular disease of the heart. All these mishaps are the direct result of neglected cold. Peruna is the safeguard of the family. If a child catches cold Peruna should be used immediately.

A few doses of Peruna and a child's cold is gone. The apprehension of the parents flee away. The household is free from fear once more.

If you do not receive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

Ask Your Druggist for free Pe-ru-na Almanac for 1904.

Advertisement for Kemp's Balsam, featuring a bottle and text: 'DO YOU COUGH? DON'T DELAY TAKE KEMP'S BALSAM THE BEST COUGH CURE'.

Advertisement for 'THE KATY' GIRL, featuring a woman's portrait and text: 'A beautiful picture in colors (without advertising), on plate paper, suitable for framing. Makes an appropriate Holiday Gift.'.

Advertisement for Daxtine Toilet Antiseptic, featuring a woman's portrait and text: 'FOR WOMEN A Boston physician's discovery which cleanses and heals all inflammation of the mucous membrane wherever located.'.

Advertisement for \$15 Gold Filled Watch for 50 cts, with text: 'Send no money. Write for particulars. L. F. O. Box 218, Boston, Mass.'.

Advertisement for Patents, with text: '48-page book FREE. FITZGERALD & CO., Box M, Washington, D. C.'.

CALIFORNIA FARMS. Catalogue sent free. U. M. Wooster Co., San Francisco.

Large advertisement for Cascarets, featuring a man's portrait and text: 'BEST FOR THE BOWELS. Candy Cathartic. THEY WORK WHILE YOU SLEEP.'.

Advertisement for Winchester Rifle & Pistol Cartridges, with text: 'It's the shots that hit that count. Winchester Rifle and Pistol Cartridges in all calibers hit, that is, they shoot accurately and strike a good, hard, penetrating blow.'.

Advertisement for Piles, with text: 'NO MONEY TILL CURED. 25 YEARS ESTABLISHED. We send FREE and postpaid a 200 page treatise on Piles, Fistula and Diseases of the Rectum; also 100 page illus. treatise on Diseases of Women.'.

Advertisement for Western Canada, with text: 'Looking for a Home? Then why not keep in view the fact that the farming lands of Western Canada are available.'.

Advertisement for Free Homestead Lands, with text: 'are sufficient to support a population of 50,000,000 or over. The Immigration for the next six years has been phenomenal.'.

SPENT HALF AN HOUR BUYING A FRENCH DOLL.

nothing to his sister, showing each day an increasing interest in the accumulating presents in the locked room, and finally, on Christmas eve, late in the day, going back to the store where he had made his purchases to ask what had become of the doll and the warship. It took a long time to find out the right man, but at last a very polite clerk who had been answering questions as fast as a dozen people could ask them, turned to him and said: